
Notes on the Flora of the Yucatán Peninsula IX: A Reappraisal of the
Genus *Wimmeria* (Celastraceae), Including the New Species
W. lundelliana

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ABSTRACT. *Wimmeria lundelliana* Carnevali, R. Duno, J. L. Tapia & I. Ramírez (Celastraceae) from the Yucatán Peninsula Biotic Province (YPBP) is proposed as a new species. The novelty is described, illustrated, and its affinities discussed. It appears related to *W. obtusifolia* Standley, also from the Yucatán Peninsula, which is glabrous or glabrescent overall, with proportionally broader and blunter leaves. In comparison, an amplified description and iconography of *W. obtusifolia* are offered. An epitype is designated for *W. obtusifolia* to document the fruit morphology. A taxonomic overview of *Wimmeria* Schlechtendal & Chamisso in the YPBP is presented. The objectives of this paper are (1) to present a synopsis of the genus *Wimmeria* for the YPBP, (2) to provide a key to species identification, and (3) to describe a new species. An additional objective of this contribution is to provide an amplified description and iconography of *W. obtusifolia*, particularly of the fruits, which were previously undescribed.

RESUMEN. Se describe, ilustra y compara una nueva especie, *Wimmeria lundelliana* Carnevali, R. Duno, J. L. Tapia & I. Ramírez (Celastraceae) de la porción mexicana de la Provincia Biótica Península de Yucatán (YPBP). *Wimmeria lundelliana* parece estar relacionada con *W. obtusifolia* Standley, pero es glabra o glabrescente y las hojas son más anchas y obtusas. Se incluye una descripción ampliada e iconografía de *W. obtusifolia*. Se designa un epítipo para *W. obtusifolia* para describir la morfología del fruto. Se presenta una sinopsis de *Wimmeria* Schlechtendal & Chamisso en la YPBP. Los objetivos de este artículo son (1) presentar una sinopsis del género *Wimmeria* para la YPBP, (2) proporcionar una clave para la identificación de estas especies y (3) describir una nueva especie. Adicionalmente incluimos una descripción ampliada e iconografía de *W. obtusifolia*, con información de los frutos, los cuales hasta la fecha eran desconocidos.

Key words: Celastraceae, epitype, IUCN Red List, Mexico, *Wimmeria*, Yucatán Peninsula Biotic Province.

Wimmeria Schlechtendal & Chamisso (Celastraceae) is a tree or shrub genus occurring from Mexico to Panama (Moreno, 2001). The genus is vegetatively nondescript, with simple, alternate, coriaceous leaves, often clustered at the apices of branches. Leaves are frequently produced on abbreviated branches or brachyblasts. Flowers are typically celastraceous with a well-defined, fleshy, annular disk and five stamens. The most distinctive feature of the genus is the trigonous ovary that develops into a conspicuous, 3-winged, samara-like fruit resembling a Chinese lantern.

Lundell (1939) published a treatment of the genus *Wimmeria* and recognized 15 species assigned to subgenus *Euwimmeria* Lundell, with fruits longer than wide, and subgenus *Wimmeriella* Lundell, with fruits broader than long. The monophyly of these sections needs to be tested in a cladistic framework because the fruit distinction is fuzzy at best and a few species are difficult to place and seem intermediate (e.g., *W. concolor* Schlechtendal & Chamisso, *W. montana* Lundell, and *W. obtusifolia* Standley). However, for the purposes of this paper we prefer to follow Lundell's proposal since it is the only classification scheme available.

Lundell (1939) included two species for the Yucatán Peninsula Biotic Province (YPBP) area. *Wimmeria bartlettii* Lundell in subgenus *Euwimmeria* occurs from Mexico (Veracruz, Oaxaca, and Chiapas) to Panama (Chiriquí). Within the YPBP, it occurs in Petén Department in Guatemala, but has yet to be collected within Mexican territory (Lundell, 1939; Moreno, 2001). *Wimmeria obtusifolia* has been assigned to subgenus *Wimmeriella* because of its shrubby habit and pubescent leaves and twigs and is apparently endemic to the state of Yucatán (Lundell, 1939).

Recent fieldwork within the framework of the *Flora Ilustrada de la Península de Yucatán* project revealed two morphologically different populations of *Wimmeria* in the Mexican portion of the YPBP. One of them appears to be restricted to northwestern Yucatán and is a perfect match to the type material of Standley's *W. obtusifolia*, a species that had apparently not been collected since Lundell's collections in the late 1930s. A second set of populations, occurring in more humid areas of the YPBP, which has been erroneously identified as *W. obtusifolia* by previous workers and does not match any previously described species in *Wimmeria*, is herein proposed as a new species, thus bringing the total number of species in YPBP to three.

KEY FOR *WIMMERIA* SPECIES IN THE YUCATÁN PENINSULA BIOTIC PROVINCE, MEXICO

- 1a. Leaves lanceolate, lanceolate-oblong, or elliptic, 6–13.5 × 1.8–5.5 cm; petiole 7–12 mm long; inflorescence forked 2 to 4×; fruits at least 1.5× longer than wide *W. bartlettii*
- 1b. Leaves obovate to obovate-elliptic, or elliptic-suborbicular, 3–7 × 0.9–2.8 cm; petiole 3–8 mm long; inflorescence 1- to 2-branched; fruits wider than long, as long as wide to less than 1.2× longer than wide 2
- 2a. Leaves elliptic, 2–4.5 cm long, puberulent on both surfaces, apex obtuse or slightly rounded; fruits pale dull yellow to green-yellow with irregular reddish spots and blotches, 1–1.2 × 1–1.7 cm *W. obtusifolia*
- 2b. Leaves obovate, elliptic to elliptic-suborbicular, 3.5–7 cm long, glabrous on both surfaces, apex rounded, retuse, rarely narrowly obtuse; fruits concolorous, 1.2–1.4 × 1.2–2 cm *W. lundelliana*

1. *Wimmeria bartlettii* Lundell, Bull. Torrey Bot. Club 65: 467. 1938, as *Bartlettii*. TYPE: Guatemala. Petén: Uaxactun, 2 Apr. 1931, *H. H. Bartlett* 12435 (holotype, A; isotypes, MICH, MO).

Distribution and ecology. This species is found in Mexico (Chiapas, Oaxaca, and Veracruz), Belize (El Cayo and Toledo), Guatemala (Petén), south into Panama. In Guatemala this plant grows in sapodilla and mahogany forests (Lundell, 1939). These forest types are also present in the southern portions of Campeche and Quintana Roo states, thus its occurrence in the Mexican portion of the YPBP is likely.

Discussion. *Wimmeria bartlettii* belongs in subgenus *Wimmeriella* with fruits longer than wide.

Selected specimens examined. BELIZE. **El Cayo:** Valentin, 16°45'59"N, 89°9'45"W, June–July 1936, *C. L. Lundell* 6278 (MO). **Toledo:** Temash River, 16°0'N, 89°7'W, 22 Apr. 1934 (fr.), *W. A. Schipp* 1296 (A, F, G, MO, NY). GUATEMALA. **Peten:** Puerto Mendez, Rolando, 17 Mar.

1970 (fl.), *Tún Ortiz* 776 (MO); Uaxactun, 17°23'37"N, 89°38'1"W, 2 Apr. 1931 (fl.), *H. H. Bartlett* 12435 (MO). MEXICO. **Chiapas:** Mun. Ocosingo, Nuevo Guerrero, 16°59'08"N, 91°17'06"W, 200 m, 11 Apr. 2002 (fl.), *G Aguilar* 474 (CICY, XAL); Mun. Ocosingo a 1 km al S de San Javier, 16°47'22"N, 91°06'06"W, 295 m, 24 ago. 2002 (fl.), *C. Chancayun et al.* 2140 (CICY, XAL). **Veracruz:** Mun. San Andres Tuxtla, faldas del Volcán San Martín, ladera S, 18°31'33"N, 95°10'48"W, 22 abr. 2001 (fl., fr.), *A. Rincón et al.* 2331 (CICY, XAL).

2. *Wimmeria lundelliana* Carnevali, R. Duno, J. L. Tapia & I. Ramírez, sp. nov. TYPE: Mexico. Campeche: Mun. Calakmul, 31 km S de la caseta de entrada a Calakmul, 18°17'N, 89°50'6"W, 180 m, selva mediana subcaducifolia, árbol 10 m con flor blanca, 24 Nov. 1997, *E. Martínez, D. Álvarez, S. Ramírez, E. Lira & E. Madrid* 29902 (holotype, CICY; isotypes, MEXU, MO). Figure 1.

Species haec *Wimmeriae obtusifoliae* Standley similis, sed ab ea foliis glaberrimis (vs. puberulis) latioribus apice rotundato vel emarginato, petiolis laxe pilosis (vs. puberulis) atque fructibus concoloribus majoribus differt.

Tree 10–20 m high; young branches minutely and sparsely pilose. *Leaves* borne mainly at the apex of short branches, alternate, simple, coriaceous, drying light brown on both surfaces, slightly paler abaxially; *stipules* minute, caducous. *Petioles* 4–8 mm, shallowly canaliculate, sparse and minutely pilose; *leaves* subcoriaceous, blades obovate to elliptic, elliptic, or elliptic-suborbicular, 3.5–7 × 0.9–2.8 mm, apex rounded, retuse, or rarely narrowly obtuse, base attenuate, glabrous on both surfaces, nervation penninerved, central nerve prominent abaxially, inconspicuous adaxially, secondary nerves arising at 45°–60° to central nerve at first, then curving distally, not reaching the margins or the apex, margin crenate, subcrenate to almost entire. *Inflorescences* usually 7-flowered cymes, sometimes reduced to 1 flower, 1.5–2.5 cm, peduncle 9–12 mm, minutely pilose, first-order branches ca. 2 mm, second-order branches 1-flowered, ca. 2 mm, pedicel 4–5 mm, floral bracts ca. 1 mm, narrowly triangular, concave, sparsely and minutely pilose. *Flowers* perfect, actinomorphic, bisexual; *calyx* 5-lobed, lobes subequal, transversely oblong, apex broadly rounded, 0.3–0.5 × 1.5–2 mm, glabrous on both surfaces; *corollas* pentamerous, imbricate, petals ovate, 3–3.5 × ca. 2 mm, apex obtuse, glabrous on both surfaces; *stamens* 5, inserted on margin of disk, ca. 2.5 mm, alternate to petals, filaments filiform, ca. 2 mm, glabrous, anthers basifixed, sagittate, 2-celled, longitudinally dehiscent; *disk* conspicuous, 5-lobate, surrounding the ovary, fleshy; *ovary* 2- to 3-keeled, 3-celled, base submerged in disc, ca. 1.5 mm high, style ca. 1 mm long, glabrous, stigma capitate, sometimes 2-

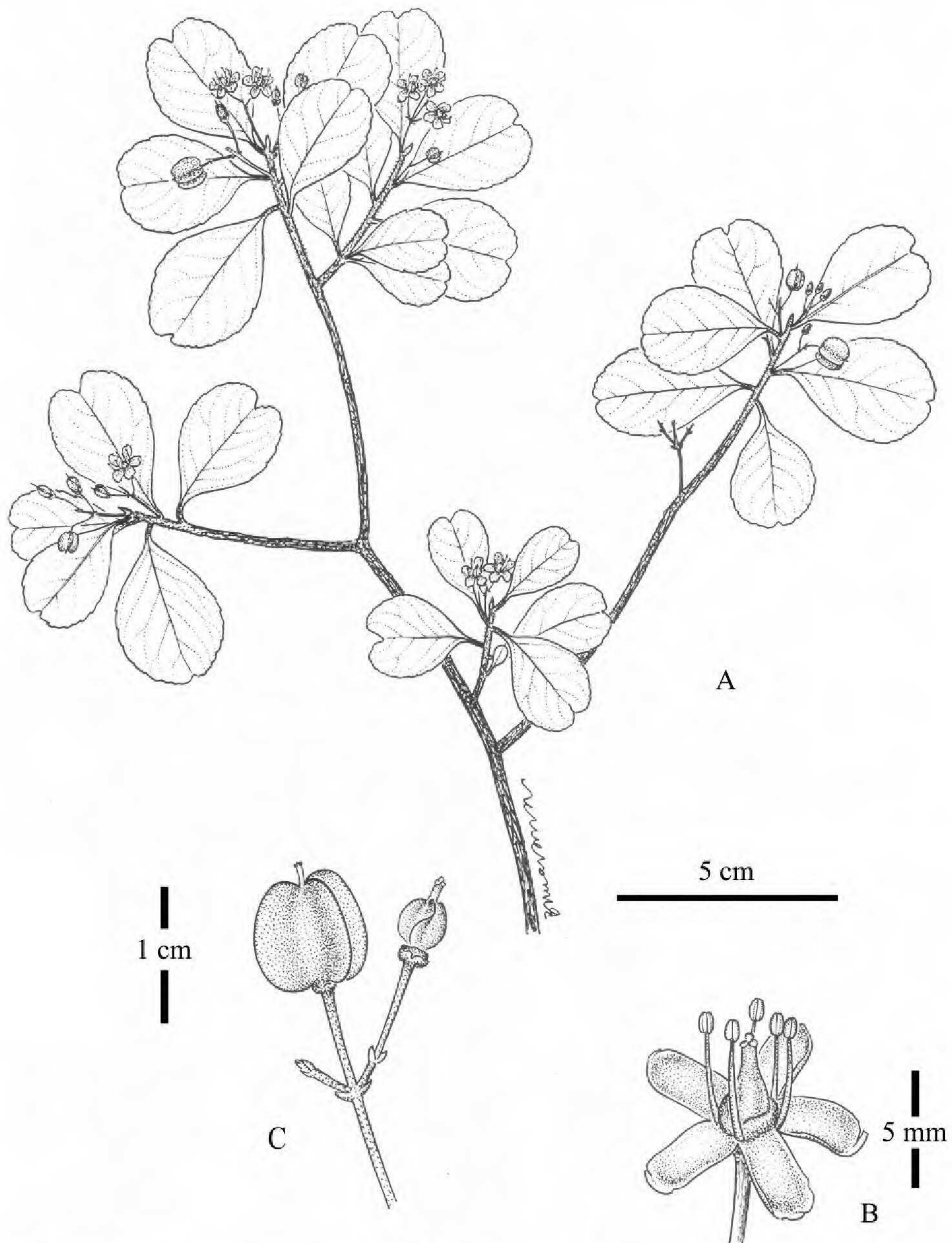


Figure 1. *Wimmeria lundelliana* Carnevali, R. Duno, J. L. Tapia & I. Ramírez. —A. Habit with inflorescence and infrutescence branches. —B. Detail of flower. —C. Detail of fruit. Drawn from *E. Martínez, D. Álvarez, S. Ramírez, E. Lira & E. Madrid 29902* (CICY).

to 3-fid. *Fruits* 3(rarely 2)-winged, depressed-orbicular, 1.2–1.4 × 1.2–2 cm, concolorous, notched at apex and base, crowned at apex by the persistent stigma and style, glabrous, indehiscent; wings membranous, with numerous fine, closely set, nearly parallel veins almost perpendicular to fruit axis.

Distribution and ecology. The new species is endemic to the Yucatán Peninsula in Mexico, only

known from the south-central and eastern portions of Campeche and Quintana Roo states. It grows in subcaducifolious medium-statured forests with an annual precipitation of 1100–1400 mm (Carnevali et al., 2003).

IUCN Red List category. *Wimmeria lundelliana* can be classified as Endangered (EN) according to IUCN Red List criteria B1a,b (IUCN, 2001). It has only been collected in two localities, which are ca.

350 km distant from each other. One of these localities resides within the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve, where it is legally protected. The second known locality, however, is along the Cancún–Tulum road, where touristic development is a major threat.

Etymology. The species epithet honors Cyrus Longworth Lundell (1907–1994), a prolific botanist who spent much of his career working in Central America, including the Yucatan Peninsula.

Discussion. *Wimmeria lundelliana* belongs to subgenus *Wimmeriella* because of its fruits that are wider than long. There are four species of *Wimmeria* in southeastern Mexico that form a natural alliance, referred to as section *Trichocarpae* by Radlkofer in 1878 (cited by Lundell, 1939: 9): *W. microphylla* Radlkofer, *W. pubescens* Radlkofer, *W. obtusifolia*, and *W. cyclocarpa* Radlkofer. *Wimmeria lundelliana* seems to belong in this alliance, although it is unusual in featuring glabrous fruits and leaves. The new species resembles *W. obtusifolia* but differs in the leaves that are longer (3.5–7 mm vs. 2–4.5 mm), usually obovate with apex rounded to emarginate (vs. elliptic with apex obtuse), and glabrous (vs. puberulent on both surfaces), and in the fruits that are 1.2–1.4 × 1.2–2 cm (vs. 1–1.2 × 1–1.7 cm). The new species resembles *W. acapulcensis* Lundell (from another alliance, *Leiocarpae* Radlkofer, with four species from western Mexico), but the leaves of the western Mexican species have longer petioles (5–15 mm vs. 4–8 mm) and the leaves are narrower (narrowly ovate to ovate vs. generally obovate, elliptic, or elliptic-suborbicular).

Paratypes. MEXICO. **Campeche:** Mun. Calakmul, 31 km al S de la caseta de entrada a Calakmul, 18°17'12"N, 89°50'11"W, 145 m, mediana subcaducifolia, 19 oct. 1997 (fl.), E. Martínez, D. Álvarez, S. Ramírez, E. Lira y E. Madrid 29121 (CICY, MEXU, MO); same locality, 19 oct. 1997 (fl.), E. Martínez, D. Álvarez, S. Ramírez, E. Lira y E. Madrid 29121a (CICY); same locality, 19 oct. 1997 (fl.), E. Martínez, D. Álvarez, S. Ramírez, E. Lira y E. Madrid 29123 (CICY); same locality, 24 nov. 1997 (fr.), E. Martínez, D. Álvarez y S. Ramírez 29888 (CICY, MEXU, MO); same locality, 24 nov. 1997 (fl.), E. Martínez, D. Álvarez y S. Ramírez 29902 (CICY, MEXU, MO). **Quintana Roo:** Mun. Solidaridad, 7 km sur de Akumal, carr. Cancún–Tulum, 20°23'47"N, 87°18'49"W, 17 dic. 1982 (fr.), E. Cabrera & H. de Cabrera 3984 (MEXU, MO).

3. *Wimmeria obtusifolia* Standley, Field Mus. Bot. 8: 20. 1930. TYPE: Mexico. Yucatán: s. loc., 1917, G. F. Gaumer 24259 (holotype, F; isotypes, A, M, MO, NY, US). EPITYPE: Mexico. Yucatán: Mun. Tetiz, Tetiz, 20°57'41"N, 89°56'09"W, 15 m, 20 Oct. 2006 (fl., fr.), G. Carnevali 7185 (epitype, designated here, CICY; duplicates, MEXU, MO, NY). Figure 2.

Trees to 15 m high; young branches whitish, puberulent, older branches often lenticellate. *Leaves* small, slightly discolorous, chartaceous, brittle; petioles puberulent, 3–6 mm; blades elliptic, 2–4.5 × 1–2.5 cm, apex obtuse, sometimes slightly rounded, base acute, attenuate, margin subentire, inconspicuously crenate, sparsely puberulent on both surfaces, middle nerve distinct on adaxial surface, less distinct abaxially. *Inflorescences* cymose, to 2 cm, puberulent, lax, 3- to 7-flowered, 1.5–2 cm, peduncle 7–9 mm, minutely pilose, first-order branches ca. 0.5–1.5 mm, second-order branches 1-flowered, ca. 2 mm, pedicel 4–7 mm, floral bracts ca. 1 mm, triangular, concave, sparsely and minutely pilose. Flowers white, bracts and bracteoles inconspicuous; *calyx* 5-lobed, the lobes equal, rounded, 1–2.5 × 1–2.5 mm, apex obtuse, puberulent; *corollas* pentamerous, imbricate, petals obovate to suborbicular, 3–4 × ca. 2 mm; *stamens* 5, inserted on margin of disk, 3–4 mm, alternate to petals; filaments 2–3 mm, anthers ca. 1 mm, disc black-punctate. *Ovary* 3-keeled, 3-celled, base embedded in the disc, ca. 1.5 mm long, style ca. 1.5 mm, glabrous, stigma 3-fid. *Fruits* sparsely puberulent, 3-winged, 1–1.2 × 1–1.7 cm, pale dull yellow to green-yellow with irregular reddish spots and blotches.

Distribution and ecology. *Wimmeria obtusifolia* is endemic to the Yucatán Peninsula and is known only from northern Yucatán and Quintana Roo states in Mexico. The species grows in low deciduous forest with an annual precipitation of 500–600 mm, ranging eastward into subcaducifolious medium-statured forests with an annual precipitation of 1100–1200 mm (Carnevali et al., 2003).

IUCN Red List category. *Wimmeria obtusifolia* can be classified as Endangered (EN) according to IUCN Red List criteria B1a,b (IUCN, 2001). It has been collected in three localities on a narrow belt of ca. 300 km along the central zone of Yucatán and northern Quintana Roo states. These localities are affected by high anthropogenic impact due to touristic developments (Quintana Roo) and by land-use changes resulting from agriculture and cattle ranching.

Discussion. *Wimmeria obtusifolia* was described by Standley (1930) in his *Flora of Yucatan*, from a collection of G. F. Gaumer (24259, MO) made between 1917 and 1921 from northern Yucatán. *Wimmeria obtusifolia* was referred by Lundell (1939) to subgenus *Wimmeriella*, despite the fact that fruiting material was unavailable. Because classifications of *Wimmeria*, at both the sectional and subgeneric levels, are essentially based on fruit characteristics, we propose an epitype above. The shape of the fruits collected recently supports the referral of *W. obtusifolia* to subgenus *Wimmeriella*. Some relevant litera-

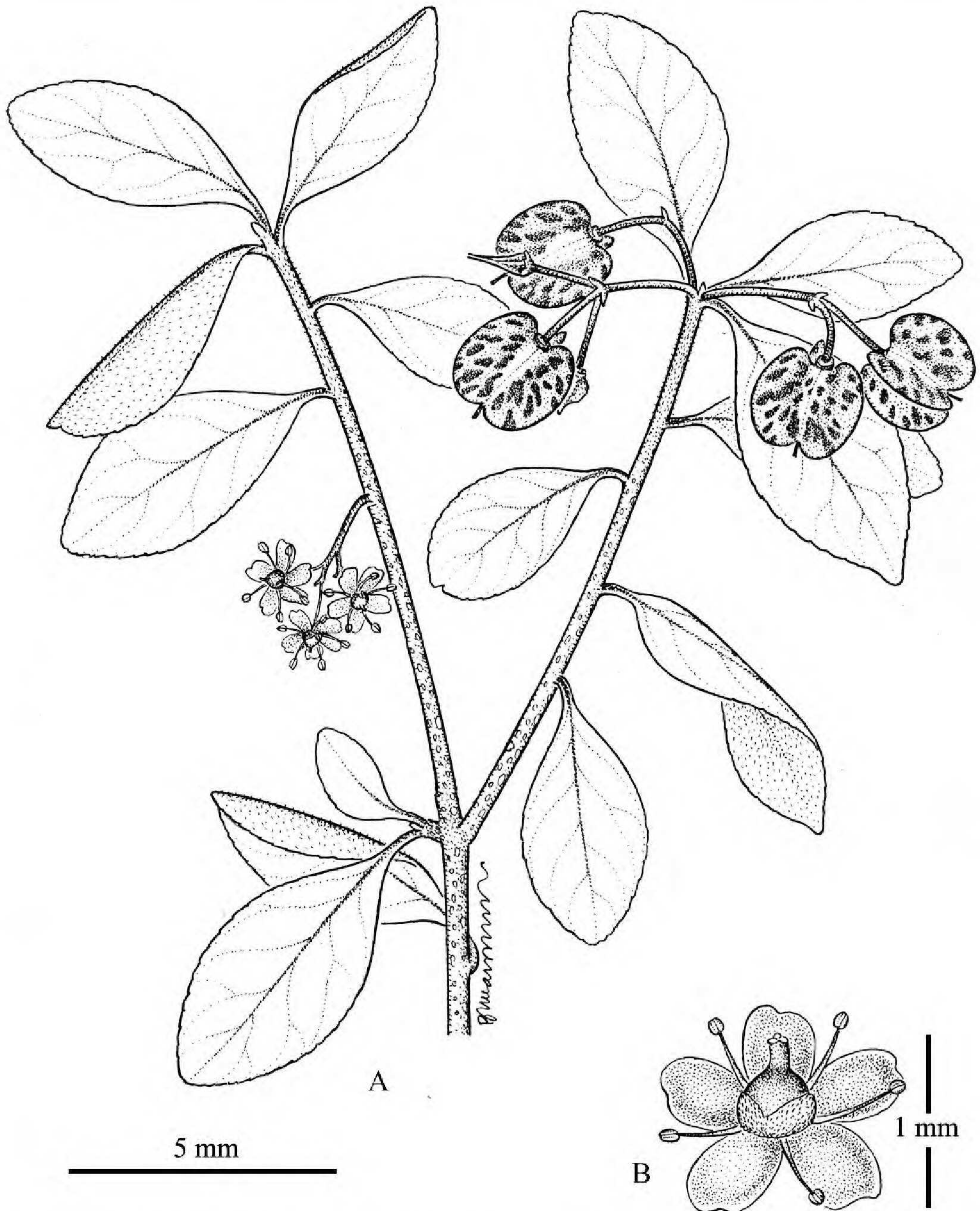


Figure 2. *Wimmeria obtusifolia* Standley —A. Habit with inflorescence and infructescence branches. —B. Detail of flowers. Drawn from the epitype *G. Carnevali* 7185 (CICY).

ture for the YBPB area treats the collections from Calakmul as *W. obtusifolia* (Durán et al., 2000; Martínez et al., 2001), but these collections are better referable to the new species, *W. lundelliana*.

Selected specimens examined. MEXICO. **Quintana Roo:** Mun. Solidaridad, 8 km S de Puerto Morelos, carr.

Cancún–Chetumal, 20°47'50"N, 86°56'25"W, 0 m s.m., 22 ene. 1989 (fl.), *I. Olmsted* 290 (CICY). **Yucatán:** Mun. Tetiz, Nohuayún, a 800 m de la Escuela Secundaria de Nohuayún, 20°57'41"N, 89°56'09"W, 15 m, 20 oct. 2006 (fl., fr.), *L. María Calvo* s.n. (CICY, MEXU, MO); Mun. Chicxulub, entre Chicxulub Puerto y Chicxulub Pueblo, 21°14'8.61"N, 89°31'58.13"W, 5–8 m, 13 nov. 2008, *G. Carnevali*, *R. Duno*, *J. C. Trejo* & *D.*

Angulo 7400 (BRIT, CICY, HUH, MEXU, MO, SEL, TEX, UCAM).

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